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EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

2. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with B.J. Sadoff on 1/13/2011.

3. IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 4 and 13-16 have been canceled.

--1. (Currently Amended) A method for increasing plant yield under conditions promoting plant growth relative to a corresponding wild type plant grown under said conditions, comprising transforming a plant with a nucleic acid sequence encoding a 2xC2H2 zinc finger protein, wherein said 2xC2H2 zinc finger protein is a dicotyledonous plant 2xC2H2 zinc finger ~~promoter~~ protein and wherein said 2xC2H2 zinc finger protein is SEQ ID NO:2 ~~to produce a modified plant;~~

growing said plant under said conditions; and

selecting ~~said modified~~ a plant having increased yield as compared to a corresponding wild type plant.

2. (Currently Amended) A method for increasing leaf surface area under conditions promoting plant growth relative to a corresponding wild type plant grown under said conditions, comprising transforming a plant with a nucleic acid sequence encoding a 2xC2H2 zinc finger

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protein, wherein said 2xC2H2 zinc finger protein is a dicotyledonous plant 2xC2H2 zinc finger ~~promoter protein~~ and wherein said 2xC2H2 zinc finger protein is SEQ ID NO:2 ~~to produce a modified plant;~~

growing said plant under said conditions; and

selecting ~~said modified~~ a plant having increased leaf surface area as compared to a corresponding wild type plant.

3. (Currently Amended) A method for prolonging vegetative growth phase of a plant under conditions promoting plant growth relative to a corresponding wild type plant grown under said conditions, comprising transforming a plant with a nucleic acid sequence encoding a 2xC2H2 zinc finger protein, wherein said 2xC2H2 zinc finger protein is a dicotyledonous plant 2xC2H2 zinc finger ~~promoter protein~~ and wherein said 2xC2H2 zinc finger protein is SEQ ID NO:2 ~~to produce a modified plant;~~

growing said plant under said conditions; and

selecting ~~said modified~~ a plant having prolonging vegetative growth phase as compared to a corresponding wild type plant.--

--17. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim [13] 1, wherein said nucleic acid introduced into the plant is comprised on at least part of a chromosome.--

--29. (Currently Amended) A method for the production of a transgenic plant having increased yield, increased leaf surface area and/or prolonged vegetative growth

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under conditions promoting plant growth relative to a corresponding wild type plant grown under said conditions, which method comprises

- (i) introducing into a plant or plant cell a nucleic acid sequence encoding a 2xC2H2 zinc finger protein, wherein said 2xC2H2 zinc finger protein is SEQ ID NO:2
- (ii) ~~Cultivating~~ cultivating the plant or plant cell under conditions promoting plant growth; and
- (iii) selecting for plants having increased yield, increased leaf surface area and/or prolonged vegetative growth.--

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Stuart F. Baum whose telephone number is 571-272-0792. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Anne Marie Grunberg can be reached at 571-272-0975. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 571-272-1600.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR

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system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Stuart F. Baum/
Stuart F. Baum Ph.D.
Primary Examiner
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